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BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
AGRICULTURAL ESTIMATES
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PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 1951
(March 1, 1951)

OREGON: The acreage of principal spring planted field crops (excluding hay) in Oregon this year is expected to be about $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent more than the 1950 acreage and about 5 per cent more than the 1940-49 average, according to reports of farmers to the Crop Reporting Service. An indicated 23 per cent increase in the spring wheat acreage will more than offset the following decreases: field corn, down 3 per cent; oats (including fall seeded) down 4 per cent; dry field peas down 7 per cent; and potatoes down 15 per cent. The seeded acreages of barley (including fall) and flax-seed are unchanged from the 1950 seeded acreages. Washington and Idaho farmers, however, expect to decrease their spring planted acreages with substantial decreases indicated for both states in oats, barley and potatoes which more than offset increases in spring wheat, dry field peas and dry edible beans. The indicated spring wheat acreage for all of Idaho is 17 per cent larger than in 1950 but northern Idaho expects an increase of 13 per cent.

A 2 per cent decrease is expected in the acreage of all hay to be cut in Oregon this year. Idaho expects a 1 per cent decrease, while the State of Washington expects a 3 per cent increase.

Ample moisture and above-normal temperatures last fall in eastern Oregon made seeding conditions much better than usual and winter wheat germinated rapidly and made good growth. The acreage seeded to winter wheat last fall was substantially more than in the previous fall when very dry conditions prevailed. On the other hand, western Oregon received too much fall precipitation and the acreage of fall sown grains was below the previous year. The relatively mild open winter was favorable for small grains until the sudden low temperatures of January 27 through February 1. Much of the acreage was not protected by snow cover at the time. At present it is too early to evaluate the damage. As far as the crops covered by this report are concerned, most of the damage in western Oregon was to fall seeded oats and oats and vetch mixtures. Reseeding of wheat in eastern Oregon, as the result of winter damage, may be a little more than usual. Most parts of the State report ample irrigation water for the coming season. The water content of the snowpack is above average in nearly all parts of the State, with the exception of some south central and eastern areas. The acreage actually planted to spring crops in 1951 may turn out to be larger or smaller than now indicated because of weather conditions, or changes in plans of producers due to price changes, labor supply, U.S.D.A. acreage guides, etc. The table which follows summarizes planting intentions in Oregon and neighboring states as of March 1:

INTENTIONS TO PLANT - OREGON AND THE NORTHWEST

	Average 1940-49		Planted Acres		1951 as per cent
	Acreage	Yield per		Indicated	of 1950
	Planted	Planted Acre	1950	1951	Per cent
	(000 Acres)	Average	Unit	Thous. Acres	Thous. Acres
S P R I N G W H E A T					
Oregon	214	21.8	Bu.	223	274
Washington	726	21.2	"	510	556
North Idaho 1/	57	21.1	"	62	68
Pac. N.W. 1/	997	"	"	795	898
C O R N					
Oregon	42	34.3	Bu.	29	28
Washington	21	47.0	"	15	15
Idaho	37	43.6	"	36	34
Total 3 States	100	"	"	80	77
O A T S					
Oregon	436	22.4	"	403	387
Washington	264	28.0	"	257	231
Idaho	211	35.3	"	235	200
Total 3 States	911	"	"	895	818
B A R L E Y					
Oregon	315	29.1	"	398	398
Washington	188	31.8	"	269	140
Idaho	335	33.8	"	396	325
Total 3 States	838	"	"	1,063	863
A L L H A Y 2/					
Oregon	1107	1.74	Ton	1123	1101
Washington	909	1.96	"	873	899
Idaho	1151	2.10	"	1144	1133
Total 3 States	3167	"	"	3140	3133
F L A X S E E D					
Oregon	5	3/10.5	Bu.	2	2
Washington	2	3/11.6	"	1	2
Montana	224	6.1	"	75	65
California	179	18.3	"	60	63
Total 4 States	410	"	"	138	122
P E A S - D R Y F I E L D 4/					
Oregon	27	1267	lb.	15	14
Washington	239	1221	"	122	132
Idaho	142	1157	"	61	61
Total 3 States	408	"	"	198	207
B E A N S - D R Y E D I B L E 4/					
Washington	4	1220	"	12	15
Idaho	142	1551	"	134	141
California 5/	360	1294	"	319	370
Total 3 States	506	"	"	465	526
P O T A T O E S					
Oregon	44	246	Bu.	41	35
Washington	38	242	"	38	31
Idaho	158	238	"	160	128
Total 3 States	240	"	"	239	194

1/ Excludes southern Idaho. 2/ Acreage harvested. 3/ Short time average
4/ Includes acreage grown for seed. 5/ Includes Limas.

UNITED STATES: Much uncertainty is apparent in reported plans of farmers for the 1951 crop season. A relatively large acreage of spring planted crops is now in prospect - 275½ million acres for the 17 crops now estimated, compared with 280 million in 1950. However, greater shifts among crops may occur following this report, than is usual. A major reason may be shifts toward the Department's acreage guides, details of which generally had not reached individual farmers by March 1. Spring activities were at about usual stages on March 1, but may have been retarded by March storms. Soil moisture is mostly satisfactory, except in a large Southwestern area extending to southern California. Irrigation water supplies are adequate in Northern areas, but taper to very poor, especially in New Mexico and Arizona.

Principal crops planted or grown in 1951 may total nearly 366 million acres, allowing for duplications and numerous crops not yet surveyed, including cotton at the guide acreage. Such a total would be about 8 million acres more than in 1950, and, although 4 million acres less than in 1949, otherwise the largest since 1933. It would mean that most of the acreage not cropped in 1950 would be in use this season.

Feed grain acreages sharply smaller than in 1950 appear to be in prospect, but without a proportionate decrease in total production. The prospective corn acreage is 1.3 million acres larger than last year's, but this includes an increase of over 3 million acres in the high-yielding Corn Belt only partially offset by decreases totaling nearly 2 million acres in the South. Decreases in oats acreage are rather general, but more than two-thirds of the decrease of nearly 2½ million acres is in the North Central region. For barley, all but 2 producing States show declines totaling 1.8 million acres, most of which is in North Central and Western states. The acreage in sorghums is about 4 million less than in 1950, with about two-thirds of the decline in Texas and heavy drops in other sorghum grain producing areas. On the basis of 1945-49 average yields per acre, prospective feed grain acreage would produce about 117½ million tons, compared with 125 million tons in 1950. Hay acreage is indicated at virtually the same as in 1950. This, with the large prospective carryover would provide liberal hay supplies, even if more livestock is to be fed and more than the usual proportion of the acreage were diverted to harvest for seed, for silage, or for pasture after hay needs are satisfied.

Some increase in food grains is in prospect, compared with 1950. Winter wheat acreage was increased 6 per cent and prospective spring wheat is up 18 per cent. If yields of spring wheat should be at the 1945-49 average, about 1,208 million bushels of all wheat may be harvested in 1951. A record rice acreage is in prospect. Rye acreage sown last fall was 2 per cent larger than for the previous season, but the acreage to be harvested for grain may be smaller than last year.

For the 3 oilseeds now covered by estimates, a decline of 1.2 million acres from the 1950 planted acreage is in prospect. Soybeans account for most of this, with 6 per cent less acreage grown alone. In flaxseed, the decline was only about 3½ per cent, largely due to inability to seed the intended fall acreage in the droughty Texas flax area. A decrease of about 5 per cent in peanuts grown alone is indicated, with only Oklahoma showing an increase. The 15 per cent decline in prospective potato acreage would result in the smallest acreage in over 75 years. Acreages of dry beans and dry peas are slightly above those of 1950, but remain relatively small. Sugar beets, however, dropped off about one-eighth. Tobacco, with acreage allotments higher than in 1950 for the kinds covered, registered a sharp gain of nearly one-tenth.

INTENTIONS TO PLANT: UNITED STATES

	PLANTED ACREAGES			
	Average 1940-49	1950	Indicated 1951	1951 as per cent of 1950
	Thousands			Per cent
Corn, all	89,481	84,370	85,694	101.8
All spring wheat	18,672	18,509	21,850	118.1
Durum	2,682	3,814	2,894	102.8
Other spring	15,990	15,695	18,956	120.8
Oats	43,510	46,642	44,191	94.7
Barley.	14,281	13,235	11,413	86.2
Flaxseed.	4,158	4,064	3,921	96.5
Rice	1,533	1,620	1,931	119.2
Sorghums for all purposes	16,024	16,587	12,540	75.6
Potatoes.	2,625	1,866	1,590	85.2
Sweetpotatoes	672	573	444	77.5
Tobacco 1/	1,613	1,594	1,745	109.5
Beans, dry edible	2,023	1,632	1,664	102.0
Peas, dry field	508	240	244	101.7
Soybeans 2/	12,266	14,704	13,772	93.7
Cowpeas 2/	2,043	1,089	941	86.4
Peanuts 2/	3,666	2,752	2,614	95.0
Hay 1/	74,845	75,741	75,656	99.9
Sugar beets.	828	1,013	887	87.6

1/ Acreage harvested. 2/ Grown alone for all purposes.

Released: Portland, Oregon
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Acting in Charge

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